

seek aid in the "West. By October, 1107, he had collected on Apulian soil an army of 34,000 men, partly from France—whose King, Philip I, was the fattier of his wife Constance—and including even some English. Abandoning his original scheme of taking these reinforcements to Antioch, he landed on the Greek coast and began the siege of Durazzo as a preliminary to marching on Salonica and Constantinople. This bold stroke was that of Guiscard over again, if it proved less formidable to the Byzantines. Bohemund's declaration of war upon the Emperor was a proud boast true to the old Norman spirit: "I will fill all your cities and lands with blood and slaughter until I strike my lance in Byzantium itself." The answer of Alexius confronted with this second Guiscard had a certain dignity and sang-froid worthy of a more civilised race; among a staff dumb with fear, he stooped down to loosen the latchet of his shoe, saying, "Let us dine now; we will see about this Bohemund afterwards."¹ The end of the enterprise was for Bohemund inglorious; in the spring of 1108, he himself was blockaded by sea and land and was forced to seek peace at Deabolis. Alexius granted to

him the
county of Antioch but only as
liegeman of the
Greek Empire; in addition he was to
restore all
that had belonged to the Emperors of
old on the
Syrian frontier.

The treaty, however, remained a
dead letter.

¹ Anna Comnena, *op. cit.* p. 126 *seg.*.